

layered structure. The ceramic layered structure is pressed in the recess between the bottom plate and a top die and lateral force is applied via the plurality of thrust mechanisms on outer faces of the sidewalls in directions toward the recess.

It is asserted at Page 2 of the Official Action that:

Mori discloses a method for pressing a stacked ceramic layer wherein a die (18) is laterally positioned on a die base/bed (26) wherein the sides of the ram (27) and outer peripheries (19) act as a plurality of thrust mechanisms wherein the die has bottom plate (16) and sidewalls (15) forming a recess for receiving a material to be pressed and pressing the material in the recess between the bottom plate and a top die and applying lateral force via the plurality of thrust mechanisms on outer faces of the sidewalls in directions toward the recess.

In fact, however, the outer peripheral portions 19 are part of the upper punch 14. The patent explains:

This upper punch 14 is divided into an outer peripheral portion 19 which comes into contact with peripheral edge portions of the first major surface of the ceramic laminate 13 and a body portion 20 which comes into contact with a central portion of the first major surface, so that these portions separately press the ceramic laminate.

Col. 4, lines 50-56. In other words, the forces applied by the portions 19 and 20 are all downward forces on the first major surface of the ceramic laminate. The upper punch 14 formed by the portions 19 and 20 is moved downward under force of a ram 27.

Reference numeral 15 corresponds to a "frame" that encloses the peripheries of the upper punch 14 formed by the portions 19 and 20 and the ceramic laminate 13. The portion 19 and the ram 27 do not apply any lateral force in directions toward a recess defined by the frame 15 on any surface of the frame 15. At most, the ram 27 provides a downward force on the frame 15. Thus, *Mori et al.* does not disclose or suggest a method including a combination of steps wherein a ceramic layered structure is pressed in a recess

between a bottom plate and a top die and lateral force is applied via a plurality of thrust mechanisms on outer faces of sidewalls in directions toward the recess.

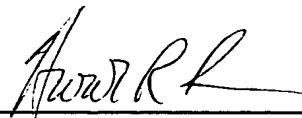
In view of the differences between claim 14 and *Mori et al.*, it is respectfully submitted that claim 14 and the claims dependent therefrom are not anticipated by and define patentably over *Mori et al.*

It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims, claims 14-21, define patentably over the cited references. Allowance is cordially urged.

If the Examiner should be of the opinion that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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